

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-10 L-03 SS-15 PA-01 USIA-06 NSC-05

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DRAFTED BY IO/UNP:RAPECK:CB
APPROVED BY P:PCHABIB
NEA:ARDA(DRAFT)
O:JABAKER
L/UNA:DSTEWART
O/UNP:GBHELMAN
S/S - MR. ORTIZ

----- 002149

R 061844Z NOV 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 274206

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PLO, UN, US

SUBJECT: STATUS OF PLO OFFICES IN NEW YORK

REFS: A)STATE 245005; B)USUN 4124; C)STATE 263198

1. YOUR EARLIER DISCUSSION WITH TERZI OF STATUS OF THE TWO PLO OFFICES IN NEW YORK WAS MOST HELPFUL IN PREPARATION OF THE RECENT PRESS STATEMENT (REFTEL C). DEPARTMENT HAS REVIEWED THE PRESENT SITUATION AND DECIDED TO ASK TERZI TO TAKE THE FURTHER STEP OF PROVIDING FOR SEPARATION OF OFFICES AND STAFFS. WE ARE MINDFUL, HOWEVER, OF PROBLEM OF PROTECTION FOR SEPARATE INFORMATION OFFICE IF IT SHOULD BE LOCATED AT SOME DISTANCE FROM THE OBSERVER OFFICE AND ITS EPS GUARD. WE ARE THEREFORE PREPARED TO ACCEPT AN ARRANGEMENT WHEREBY THE TWO OFFICES WOULD BE LOCATED CONTIGUOUSLY AS LONG AS THERE ARE SEPARATE EXTERNAL
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ENTRANCES, FULLY SEPARATE STAFFS, AND SEPARATE

FILES. THOUGH WE RECOGNIZE THAT EPS WOULD NOT TECHNICALLY HAVE AUTHORITY TO PROTECT THE INFORMATION OFFICE, PRESENCE OF A GUARD OUTSIDE AN ADJACENT OBSERVER OFFICE SHOULD HAVE SUBSTANTIAL DETERRENT VALUE FOR INFORMATION OFFICE.

2. YOU SHOULD RAISE THE MATTER AGAIN WITH TERZI AND TELL HIM THAT HIS CATEGORICAL ASSURANCES THAT NEITHER THE OBSERVER OFFICE NOR THE INFORMATION OFFICE HAD BEEN OR WOULD BECOME INVOLVED IN FUND RAISING HAVE BEEN HELPFUL AND ARE APPRECIATED. HOWEVER, IN CONSIDERING RESPONSES TO INQUIRIES FROM THE CONGRESS, PUBLIC AND PRESS, WE HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THE PHYSICAL INTERMINGLING OF THE TWO OFFICES RAISES SERIOUS QUESTIONS AS TO THE ABILITY OF EACH TO CARRY OUT ITS RESPECTIVE FUNCTIONS SEPARATELY. WE DO NOT THINK THAT THE OBSERVER OFFICE CAN OPERATE FREE OF CRITICISM REGARDING ITS ROLE UNDER THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. WE THEREFORE MUST REQUEST THAT COMPLETELY SEPARATE STAFFS, FILES AND ENTRANCES BE ESTABLISHED FOR THE TWO OFFICES.

3. YOU SHOULD TELL TERZI THAT WE ARE NEVERTHELESS CONCERNED ABOUT THE QUESTION OF PROTECTION FOR THE INFORMATION OFFICE UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES OF PHYSICAL SEPARATION THROUGH RELOCATION. THE EXECUTIVE PROTECTION SERVICE WILL NOT HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO EXTEND ITS PROTECTION TO THE INFORMATION OFFICE PREMISES. THEREFORE WE WOULD ENCOURAGE TERZI EITHER TO CONVERT HIS PRESENT QUARTERS OR LOCATE NEW QUARTERS TO PROVIDE FOR FULLY SEPARATE BUT CONTIGUOUS OFFICES. WE WOULD INSIST THAT THESE OFFICES HAVE SEPARATE EXTERNAL ENTRANCES WHICH WOULD CLEARLY DESIGNATE THE SEPARATE OFFICES, AND THAT THERE BE NO SHARED FACILITIES. WE BELIEVE THAT THE PRESENCE OF THE EPS GUARD OUTSIDE THE OBSERVER OFFICE WOULD, UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, HAVE A SUBSTANTIAL DETERRENT EFFECT FOR THE ADJACENT INFORMATION OFFICE.

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4. IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT FULLY THE SEPARATION OF THE OFFICES, WE MUST FURTHER INSIST THAT THE OFFICES EMPLOY ENTIRELY SEPARATE SECRETARIAL AND CLERICAL STAFFS. WE ALSO EXPECT, OF COURSE, THAT TERZI WILL QUICKLY RESOLVE THE DUAL STATUS OF HASAN ABDUL RAHMAN AS HE INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO DO IN HIS EARLIER CONVERSATION WITH YOU. ONCE THE DUAL STATUS QUESTION HAS BEEN RESOLVED, WE BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT THAT

RAHMAN, IN HIS PUBLIC APPEARANCES, DESCRIBE
HIMSELF AS CHIEF OF THE PLO INFORMATION OFFICE
ONLY. YOU SHOULD SEEK TERZI'S AGREEMENT TO THIS
POINT.

5. IF TERZI ASKS FOR TIME TO LOCATE NEW QUARTERS ON
THE GROUNDS THAT THE PRESENT QUARTERS CANNOT BE
REARRANGED AS OUTLINED ABOVE, YOU SHOULD INDICATE
THAT WE ASSUME HE WILL REQUIRE A REASONABLE LENGTH
OF TIME TO FIND OFFICE SPACE.

6. BEGIN FYI: YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THE ABOVE
REQUEST IS CONSISTENT WITH THE POSITION WE HAVE
TAKEN WITH THE ARAB LEAGUE OBSERVER OFFICE AND THE
ARAB INFORMATION OFFICE. ASSISTANT SECRETARY
ATHERTON MET WITH AMBASSADORS REPRESENTING THE ARAB
LEAGUE ON SEPTEMBER 23 IN REGARD TO AMBASSADOR HELMY'S
LEGAL PROBLEMS. AT THAT TIME ATHERTON URGED THAT
THE ARAB LEAGUE ESTABLISH TWO PHYSICALLY SEPARATE
OFFICES AS THEY HAD AGREED TO DO WHEN THE GROUNDRULES
FOR THE TWO OFFICES WERE ESTABLISHED IN 1956. THE
AMBASSADORS AGREED TO DO SO. END FYI.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING OBSERVERS, DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE274206
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RAPECK:CB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760415-0498
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761173/aaaacbj.tel
Line Count: 139
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 245005, 76 USUN NEW YORK 4124, 76 STATE 263198
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <14 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STATUS OF PLO OFFICES IN NEW YORK
TAGS: PFOR, US, PLO, UN
To: USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006